

Tell us what you would do ...

There's an old saying - "talk is cheap!" We might add that "talking in generalities is even cheaper!"

As the primary elections approach and candidates begin their campaigns, most people running for public office tell us what wonderful family men or women they are, how interested they are in our communities and school systems, and what good members they are of this organization and that group. All of which, when you get right down to it, doesn't mean a thing as far as running a city or school district.

What does matter are a person's specific ideas for improvement. In the case of the city of Carbondale, there are few problems that couldn't be solved by spending money. The question which we would like every candidate for city council and every mayoral candidate to answer in their campaign is: Specifically, how do you propose to solve the city's problems and how will you get the money to accomplish your objectives? If the candidate can't answer these questions, then he or she doesn't really know much about city government and most likely does not deserve your vote.

By the same token, candidates for various school boards should be able to outline the steps they propose to take to improve the quality of education. If a candidate can not offer a list of concrete proposals, then they most likely have not become familiar with their school system and offer no assurance that they deserve a director's seat.

Candidates should be quizzed by the voters before election day. The voters deserve to know what

kind of representation they are going to get. To vote for a person on the basis of their name and previous association with various organizations is like buying a car based on its exterior appearance without ever getting in and taking it for a test drive.